



42nd Annual Report

OF THE

Health of Stafford.

F. MILNES BLUMER,

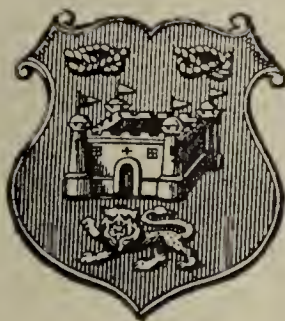
B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1915.

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STAFFORD,

9TH MAY, 1916.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forty-second Annual Report of the Health of the Borough of Stafford.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

Report.

Area.—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of 1,084 acres.

Population.—Estimated to the middle of 1915 by the Registrar-General's method, and allowing for all who are absent on military service, the population of Stafford Borough works out at 21,748. This is 1,635 less than it was in the census year (1911). In the several Public Institutions there were 988 inmates who must be reckoned as "non-residents" of Stafford, and deducting these we arrive at the figure **20,760** as the estimated **nett** population upon which the statistical rates in this report are based. I cannot but think this figure is too low, as in the previous year it was up to 22,963.

Rate Comparison.—This low estimate of the population will affect the death-rates adversely by increasing them very markedly. And it must be borne in mind that by the withdrawal of all who have been passed fit for military service, the proportion of those left in the town who are not of that high standard of health is correspondingly greater, and therefore the incidence of sickness is also proportionately higher. These factors should be remembered in comparing the rates of this year with those of the preceding years.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 525, of which 263 were males and 262 were females. The returns are equal to an annual rate of 25·29 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 25·25, and the average for the preceding five years was 25·54. Illegitimate births numbered 24 or 4·5 per cent. of the total. In the previous year the percentage was 4·3. Comparative statistics are given in Table I.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered in the district during the year was 489. There were 178 deaths of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the

public institutions, and there were 6 deaths of residents not registered in the district. The *corrected* number of deaths therefore was 317. Of these 153 were males and 164 were females. The nett death-rate was 15·27. The average for the preceding five years was 13·73.

Quarterly Returns.—The 317 nett deaths were returned thus:—

1st Quarter	...	105	Death-rate	...	20·23	
2nd	„	...	70	„	...	13·49
3rd	„	...	57	„	...	10·98
4th	„	...	85	„	...	16·38
Average	...	79·25	Average	...	15·27	

Infantile Mortality.—There were 50 deaths of infants under a year old, which are equal to a rate of 95 per 1,000 registered births. The average for the preceding five years was 59 deaths with a rate of 103. Half of the infants died during the first month. Congenital Weakness and Premature Birth caused 22 deaths, Whooping Cough 3, Tuberculosis 4, Convulsions 7, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 7, Diarrhœal Diseases 5, Other Causes 2. The following figures apply to the feeding of the infants who died:—

Breast wholly	...	...	...	17
Breast partly	...	...	...	6
Artificially	...	...	...	7
Not known...	...	...	...	8
Lived only a few hours	...	...	...	12
				<hr/> 50
				<hr/>

Zymotic Diseases.—There were 16 deaths registered as due to the chief Zymotic Diseases. Measles caused 2 deaths, Scarlet Fever 3, Whooping Cough 4 and Diarrhœa 7. The Zymotic death-rate was ·77 per 1000, compared with 1·19 the average during the preceding ten years.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CORRECTED DEATHS FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN CHIEF ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN THE TEN YEARS
1905 TO 1914 AND IN THE YEAR 1915.

DISEASES.	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the ten years 1905-1914.	1915
Small-pox ..	..	..	32	..	..	21	5	7	1	15	9.4	2
Measles ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	0.4	3
Scarlet Fever ..	..	2	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	8	0.8	4
Diphtheria ..	8	4	..	..	10	1	1	1	..	..	3.3	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Fever { Typhus ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.4	..
Enteric ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued ..	12	19	4	5	9	5	41	2	12	11	12.0	7
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	35	25	37	6	20	27	53	12	13	35	26.3	16
Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 living ..	1.64	1.17	1.71	0.27	0.89	1.21	2.42	0.54	0.57	1.52	1.19	0.77

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—There were 37 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis with an annual rate of 1.78 per 1000. These figures are much above the average, which for the preceding ten years were 30.6 deaths with a rate of 1.38.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
1905	25	1.17
1906	33	1.54
1907	30	1.38
1908	38	1.72
1909	32	1.43
1910	32	1.43
1911	38	1.73
1912	26	1.17
1913	27	1.19
1914	25	1.08
Yearly Average 1905-1914	30.6	1.38
1915	37	1.78

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—There were 262 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, made up as follows: Diphtheria 22, Scarlet Fever 139, Enteric Fever 1, Erysipelas 15, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 5, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 69, and other forms of Tuberculosis 11. The following table gives the comparative figures, so far as they are obtainable, for the previous ten years.

(NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES).

	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	Average for ten years.	1915
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	24	47	28	31	77	29	30	26	25	34	35.1	139
Diphtheria	6	2	5	3	3	5	22	28	10	16	10.0	22
Simple Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	6	6	4	3	3	1	...	1	5	1	3.0	1
Erysipelas	22	6	8	12	11	10	22	14	11	14	13.0	15
Puerperal Fever	2	...	3	2	2	...	4	3	...	2	1.8	...
Ophthalmia- Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71	49	74	...	69
Other forms of Tuber- culosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	16	...	11
Total	60	61	48	51	96	45	78	143	117	161	...	262

Scarlet Fever.—There were 139 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year—a very large increase over the last decennial average which was 35. In the first half of the year the incidence of the disease was only normal, but in the latter half the numbers rapidly increased. The monthly returns, beginning with January, were as follows:—3, 5, 1, 1, 9, 3, 13, 12, 11, 16, 37, 28. As the 3/5th Btn. N. Stafford Regiment was at that time billeted in the town, I thought it desirable to prolong the summer holidays of the public elementary schools by a month, namely from August 20th to September 20th, with a view to preventing the disease spreading and the soldiers becoming infected. But for the presence of troops in the neighbourhood I should not have considered it necessary to take that step. All parts of the town contributed their quota, though Newtown had only four cases. The number of houses infected was 109. Five cases occurred in one house, 4 cases in 3 houses, 3 cases in 3 houses, double cases in 11 houses, and single cases in 91 houses. Isolation in hospital was adopted in 121 cases. Death resulted in three instances, two of which were complicated by Diphtheria.

Diphtheria.—There were 22 cases notified compared with 10, the yearly average during the preceding ten years. Eighteen houses were infected, double cases occurring in four families. Fifteen of the cases were treated in hospital. Antitoxin is given in all cases in hospital, and there were no deaths except in the two cases mentioned above where this disease complicated an already existing Scarlet Fever.

Enteric Fever.—Only one case occurred—a child in Sabine Street. It was removed into hospital, and after a long and critical illness recovered.

Small-pox.—A case of this disease was notified as occurring in the Military Detention Barracks, and it was removed into our hospital on Stone Flatts and attended to by the Military Authorities. There had not been a case of Small-pox in the town for eleven years.

Puerperal Fever has been entirely absent during the year.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum.—Five cases were reported during the year, one of them being very mild. The District Nurse looked after four of the cases, and the eyes got well in all.

Measles, which was epidemic during the last quarter of 1914, gradually disappeared in the early part of the year, and it was not necessary to resort to closure of any of the Elementary Schools. Two deaths were registered as due to it.

Whooping Cough affected quite a good number of children and was the cause of four deaths.

Tuberculosis.—There were 80 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, of which 69 were Pulmonary. In the previous year the figures were 90 and 74. In my last report I alluded to the high rate of mortality from this disease, it being equal to 33·7 per cent. of cases notified. This year it is considerably higher, viz., **53·6 per cent. of cases notified.** When we realize that the large majority of these sufferers—both of the notified cases and the fatal ones—are between the ages of 15 and 45, and, therefore, presumably insured persons, the failure of present methods of dealing with this terrible disease is only too apparent. We have known for long years what the death roll of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been, based on a percentage of population; but it is only since notification has become compulsory that we realize its enormous case mortality—approximately one dying out of every two cases. In my last report I expressed grave doubts about any lasting benefit coming to the poor consumptive from Sanatorium treatment, unless the home conditions can be approximated to those obtaining at the Sanatorium.

I do not, of course, question the value of Sanatorium treatment in suitable cases, but it is very desirable the rôle of the Sanatorium should be understood, and if it is not to be brought into disrepute it must be strictly limited to incipient cases and patients should be retained for much longer periods than is at present allowed. Better far to concentrate on fewer cases with the view to **cure** them, than to treat so many advanced cases which can only be temporarily improved, and which relapse only too speedily on their return home. It would be a valuable contribution to our knowledge of this subject if the statistics published by Sanatoria would give the condition of their patients after the first, second and third year from their discharge. I believe a Return of those figures would be startling.

The Isolation Hospital (22 beds).—During the year 193 cases were treated. They were—Scarlet Fever, 166; Diphtheria, 25; Enteric Fever, 2; and of these 141 came from the Borough and 52 from the Rural District. During the latter half of the year the resources of the Hospital were taxed to the utmost to accommodate the cases of Scarlet Fever requiring isolation, and to meet the strain the verandahs on the new block were heated and lighted and an additional eight beds were placed on them. Further difficulty was created by a Scarlet Fever child breaking out with Measles after its admission and infecting several of the other children, and a ward had to be set apart for the isolation of these cases as they arose. During the last quarter it was not possible to give hospital accommodation to all the cases notified. Preference was given to cases where urgency was apparent, and I am not aware of any harm or hardship being complained of. By the end of the year the situation was well in hand, and no further cases were refused admission.

Changes have taken place in the resident staff. Miss Bridge, who has given many years of faithful service, resigned her position as Matron to take up private work. Her position has been taken by Miss E. Rugg, from the Fylde Hospital, Lytham, who entered on her duties in September, just before the great rush of cases came along, and her skilful management, untiring energy and resource have fully justified her appointment.

In view of the wards being fully occupied for some considerable time, it was deemed advisable to increase the permanent staff instead of resorting to the very expensive method of engaging temporary nurses, and the staff now consists of matron, three nurses and one probationer.

Vaccination Statistics. The subjoined figures for 1914 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union :—

Births registered	835
Vaccinated	235
Exemptions	532
Died unvaccinated.....	42
Postponed	5
Removed to other districts	6
Removed to districts not known	13
Not accounted for.....	2
	— 835

Sewage Disposal.—In my report last year I mentioned that a scheme for treating the sewage at the outfall works on bacteriological lines had been laid before the Local Government Board for their approval. An Enquiry was held, which I attended, and I pressed upon the Inspector the urgency of the question, and stated that it was necessary to have the work carried through without delay. The Board, however, decided not to allow any loan for such a purpose during the War, although they said, incidentally, that the scheme as presented was generally sound. And so, for the present, the matter unfortunately must rest.

Sanitary Inspection.—A Table is appended giving statistics of work done during the year in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department. Foul conditions of dwelling houses were found in 71 cases, and abatement was secured in 65 of the cases after 101 notices had been served. Of 16 structural defects in property, 14 were corrected. Only serious cases of overcrowding have been considered. As pointed out in my last report, this subject cannot be dealt with until the scheme for providing further artisans' dwellings has been carried through, and there is no prospect yet of this being possible. In the matter of house drainage 103 faults were found, 101 of which were corrected after notices sent, and closet stoppages to the number of 3,940 were dealt with. A seizure of unwholesome meat, exposed for sale in the Market and found in a cart prepared for sale, was made. It was condemned by a Magistrate and destroyed. A prosecution followed, when a conviction was obtained and a fine of Twenty Pounds on each of two summonses was inflicted, together with Ten Pounds costs. There were 150 houses and 156 lots of bedding disinfected after infectious disease.

Death of Inspector of Nuisances.—On November 10th, Mr. John Evans passed away at the ripe age of 75 years. He was at his office up to midday on November 9th, and may be said to have died in harness. Mr. Evans was appointed Inspector of Nuisances in October, 1888, so that he had completed 27 years of service. He was an assiduous worker, wonderfully energetic, a faithful official, and ever zealous for the reputation of the Borough. I would place on record my appreciation of the loyal and willing service he always rendered to me.

Appended to this report are :—

- I.—Tables of Statistics drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board.
- II.—Table giving a Summary of the Sanitary work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year.
- III.—Report of the Health Visitor, giving a Summary of her work in connection with the Notification of Births Act, the Regulations as to Tuberculosis, and Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

F. MILNES BLUMER.

Stafford,

9th May, 1916.

REPORT OF HEALTH VISITOR.

STATISTICS FOR 1915.

Birth Inquires (first visits)...	...	...	299
Birth Re-visits	...	...	1285
Infantile Mortality Inquiries	...	...	15
Visits (on report of School Medical Officer			24
Tuberculosis Inquiries	...	...	74
Tuberculosis Re-visits	...	...	279
Inspections of Municipal Working-class Dwellings	...	...	123
Inspections of Factories	...	...	16
Inspections of Workshops	...	...	23

During the year 1915, 299 infants have been visited and 181 of these have been re-visited from time to time during the first year of their lives. Of this number 218 were breast-fed, 51 were partly and 30 entirely artificially fed. With regard to the 81 hand-fed infants, 56 of these were provided with boat-shaped bottles. The long tube bottle is less in use now than formerly, whether because of the scarcity of this undesirable article or not, it is difficult to say. The recent large increase in women's labour has fortunately hardly affected at all the youngest children of the town, as only 14 of the total of 299 mothers visited went out to work before their children were twelve months old.

Sixteen sanitary defects in the houses visited were reported to the Inspector of Nuisances, fourteen of these have been abated. Three notices have been served for overcrowding, and the overcrowding has been abated.

Inquiry has been made into 74 notified cases of tuberculosis. Four houses which were in a dilapidated or damp condition were reported to the Inspector of Nuisances, and these have been put in repair. In two houses the ventilation was insufficient, because the windows could not be opened, but this defect has in each case been rectified. Three of the houses visited were found to be overcrowded. These were reported to the Inspector of Nuisances, and in two cases the overcrowding has been abated.

The Joint Committee for Tuberculosis reported 29 cases for regular visiting. Of this number six have died during the year. Thirty-nine insured persons received

treatment in sanatoria during the past year, and two uninsured persons were sent to sanatoria at private expense. Eleven patients in the borough are supplied with shelters.

Disinfection after the removal of a patient has been done in six cases, and after death from tuberculosis in 17 cases.

Special inquiry has been made into 22 cases reported by the School Medical Inspector to be overcrowded or dirty. Two houses visited were seriously overcrowded. One, containing only two very small bedrooms, was occupied by three adults and ten children. The other house has two bedrooms, but one is so small as to be little more than a cupboard. The occupants consisted of three adults and six children. Seven houses altogether were found to be overcrowded. In four of these the overcrowding has been abated, but in the remaining three nothing has been done, because the occupiers cannot find anywhere to go. Two houses, which were in a very dilapidated and dirty condition were reported to the Inspector of Nuisances, and these have been repaired.

The Municipal Working-class Dwellings have been inspected. Classified according to the standard of cleanliness found, there are in class A, 9, in class B, 26, in class C, 22, and in class D, 2.

With regard to factories and workshops, where women are employed, eight sanitary defects were found on inspection. Five statutory notices were served, and the defects have all been remedied.

A. M. FARMER.

TABLE I.

STAFFORD (BOROUGH).

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	23728	528	528	23.69	433	18.24	127	1	50	94	307	13.77
1911	23383	586	585	26.76	491	20.99	154	8	69	118	345	15.78
1912	23436	589	586	26.42	416	17.7	148	5	47	80	273	12.31
1913	23591	582	580	25.57	424	17.97	133	9	74	127	300	13.22
1914	24131	580	580	25.25	445	18.44	142	9	56	96	312	13.58
1915	20760	529	525	25.29	489	22.5	178	6	50	95	317	15.27

Area of District in Acres
(land and inland
water) } 1084

Total population at all ages..... 23383 } At Census
of
Number of inhabited houses... .. 4578 } 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.									Total cases re- moved to hospital.
	At all Ages.	At ages—Years.								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards.		
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including } Membranous Croup) }	22	...	1	14	5	1	1	...	15	
Erysipelas	15	1	1	2	5	4	1	1	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	142	...	25	92	21	2	2	...	124	
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal } Meningitis }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohpthalmia } Neonatorum }	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary } Tuberculosis }	69	...	...	8	25	26	8	2	...
Other forms of } Tuberculosis }	11	3	...	4	1	2	1	...	...
Totals	265	9	27	121	57	35	13	3	140	

TABLE III.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year, 1915, classified by Ages and Causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All causes { Certified ...	314	49	8	10	7	14	45	79	102	...
{ Uncertified ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	37	...	...	...	1	7	20	8	1	27
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	17	...	...	...	...	1	3	8	5	7
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	39	...	...	...	2	3	3	15	16	60
Bronchitis	34	4	2	...	...	...	2	8	18	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	26	3	4	1	...	...	5	8	5	36
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1
Alcoholism... ..	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth	22	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	11	1	...	...	1	1	1	2	5	7
Suicide	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	88	8	2	2	1	1	6	20	48	79
Diseases ill-defined or unknown... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	317	50	8	10	7	14	46	79	103	233

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Under 1 Week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	{	Certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	4
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1	2	1	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	3	3	2	...	8	2	...	...	...	10
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	15	3	5	2	25	9	6	4	6	50

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 501.
illegitimate 24.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants } 46
illegitimate „ } 4

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Summary of Sanitary Work during the Year 1915.

TABLE V.

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY	
	Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.
Dwelling-houses and Schools :						
Foul Conditions	71	71	30	39	26	
Structural Defects	16	16	2	12	2	
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Unfit for Habitation and Dilapidations	2	2	..	1	..	
Lodging-houses	7	..	..	..	..
Dairies and Milkshops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Cowsheds	3	1	1	1	..	
Bakehouses	203	..	..	..	..
Slaughter-houses	424	..	..	..	..
Canal Boats	6	..	..	..	..
Ash Tubs .. .. .	..	4	4	1	1	..
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	5	5	1	4	1	
Water-closets	94	94	..	..	..
House Drainage :						
Defective Traps .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
No Disconnection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Other Faults	103	103	31	69	31	
Water Supply	7	7	1	5	1	
Pigsties .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Animals improperly kept	4	4	..	4	..	
Offensive Trades .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Smoke Nuisances	1	1	..	1	..	
Other Nuisances	118	118	43	69	39	
Closet Stoppages	3940	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	643	4366	426	109	206	100
Unwholesome Food :						
Number of Surrenders .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	
Number of Seizures .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	
Condemned by Magistrate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	
Prosecutions for exposing for Sale .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Convictions ditto .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE :						
Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed .. .. .	..	..	..	..	150	
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	156	

